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DEQ receives top scores in Federal Radiation

Protection Program inspection

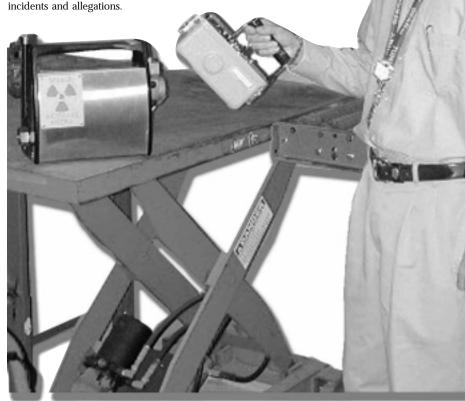
he Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality has received the highest possible rating from a federal agency in a review of DEQ's radiation protection program. The comprehensive review is performed every four years by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and is designed to assure that DEQ's radiation program does, in fact, protect the public health and safety of Louisiana's citizens.

The NRC awarded the highest possible rating to each of DEQ's five performance

(1) the status of DEQ's radioactive material inspection program;

(2) the technical quality of DEQ's radioactive material inspections;

(3) DEQ's technical staffing and training; (4) the technical quality of DEQ's radioactive material licensing actions; and (5) DEQ's response to radiation



Scott Blackwell, Environmental Scientist, surveys for radiation on an industrial radiography camera that is used to X-ray industrial pipe.

DEQ's radiation protection program licenses all users of radioactive material in the State of Louisiana and registers X-ray machines. The program also conducts ongoing inspections of all facilities that are licensed or registered. The review team consisted of four technical staff members from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and one from the State of Tennessee.

The review is conducted in two parts: DEQ regional inspectors during the the review of all other operations March 3, 2000. The review covtection activities from October

Louisiana has been an since 1967; that is, the NRC has tory authority over most radioacand industry.

throughout the nation.

In return, the state must maingram that both assures public health federal program. The NRC that all program objectives were met and that

"Agreement State" with the NRC granted to the state sole regulative materials used in medicine tain a high quality regulatory pro-

and safety and is compatible with

1996 to March 2000.

the field accompaniments of the period of January 25-27, 2000 and

during the period of February 28-

ered all of DEQ's radiation pro-

Management Review Board concluded DEQ's radiation protection program was both "adequate" to protect the public health and safety of Louisiana citizens and "compatible." By rating DEQ as "compatible," the commission believes that DEQ is trained on a level that is consistent with the NRC and other states. DEQ conducts business in a similar manner so that there is consistency

According to Chris Roberie, DEQ's administrator in charge of the radiation protection program, "The fact that DEQ has received the highest possible score in this comprehensive outside review is a credit to the staff working in radiation protection and inspection."